



### More changes at Seabourn, HAL

CARNIVAL Corp is continuing to restructure its sales operations in Australia, with the abrupt departure of Holland America Line (HAL) and Seabourn Cruise Line National Sales Manager Nikki Glading.

The Carnival stalwart had been set to meet with key industry partners at Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas, but her appointments are being taken instead by Jennifer Compton, and recently appointed Seabourn Marketing Lead Catherine Rynd.

Seabourn's Vice President of Global Sales Steve Smotrys told **Cruise Weekly** he will now have more involvement with the local operation.

The company just last month confirmed the shock departure of long-time HAL/Seabourn Sales Director, Tony Archbold (**CW** 18 Jul).

Carnival Australia acknowledged that a restructuring of the business was in progress "to align the sales focus", with a spokesperson saying a more full picture would be provided as the restructure takes shape.

Other departures from the brand include Seabourn Senior Marketing Manager, Brendan Wall, who has resigned to take up another role in cruise.

### Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

## Fiji says "bula" to cruise



P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* arrived in Fiji's Lautoka this morning, continuing her first South Pacific voyage in more than two and a half years.

*Explorer* is carrying 1,147 guests and 830 crew members, with those on board the 12-night round-trip out of Sydney formally welcomed with a traditional performance (pictured).

Fiji's Ministry of Tourism Permanent Secretary, Shaheen Ali, said the cruise sector was valued at FJD\$44 million annually before the pandemic, with the return set to help the country achieve its projected 12.4% economic growth rate this year.

"We need the return of cruise ships into Fijian waters and this marks a significant step in our economic recovery," he said.

Last week Carnival Corporation Australia President Marguerite Fitzgerald said she was looking forward to the reopening of maritime borders in other parts

of the South Pacific region.

"It is entirely appropriate that *Pacific Explorer* is on an itinerary that includes calls in Fiji.

"We are looking forward to our ships also being able to return to beautiful destinations in New Caledonia and Vanuatu," she said.

Tourism Fiji Chief Executive Officer Brent Hill hailed the return of cruise to the country, with the organisation strongly focused on the benefits the sector can bring.

Some of the Tourism Fiji team were on hand to welcome the ship and provide information on shore excursions, with Hill saying "this is something we really want to build on, to ensure tourism operators, villages, artisans and businesses can capitalise on cruise and provide wonderful day-trip experiences in our ports".

"We're keen to see more cruise coming to Fiji and to work with the companies on sustainable cultural and tourism experiences," Hill added.



On location in Las Vegas

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you from Las Vegas courtesy of Travel Associates and Virtuoso, which are hosting their annual Virtuoso Travel Week here in Nevada.

THE first sessions from Virtuoso Travel Week have seen travel advisors and suppliers updated on the latest developments within the organisation, including the launch of a "So Virtuoso" consumer brand.

The organisation, which is estimated to generate USD\$25 billion to USD\$30 billion in annual travel sales, is adamant about the positive prospects for premium travel, with growing numbers of affluent consumers who increasingly value the services of travel advisors.

Cruise is a huge focus for Virtuoso, with the show including a dedicated "Cruise Cafe" where scores of preferred suppliers are showcasing their products, while the Virtuoso Voyages program offers hosted departures with special value-adds in partnership with 11 cruise lines.

Benefits include custom shore experiences, shipboard credits, a private car & drive, and more.

Events today have included a special cruise-focused partner session with Flight Centre Travel Group's Travel Associates, which has brought all of its business leaders to Las Vegas.



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**HUMANS** have been fascinated about the theme of “first contact” for well over a century now, but according to one Harvard professor, it may be far closer than we currently anticipate.

Professor of Scientist and theoretical physicist Avi Loeb believes an object which crashed into the Pacific Ocean in 2014 may have been alien technology.

Given that iron is the primary material in meteorites, Loeb added that this particular interstellar object which landed on our planet around eight years ago is an “outlier” as far as meteors are concerned.

“It was also an outlier in terms of its speed outside the solar system,” Loeb told NBC.

“It moved at least twice as fast as stars move around the sun in the vicinity of the sun.”

Loeb’s suggestion is not as far-fetched as it may initially seem either, with a recent memo from the Department of Defense’s Space Command confirming with 99.99% certainty the meteorite in question came from outside our solar system.

I want to believe!

## Scenic showcases back



**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced its ‘Scenic Luxury Cruise & Travel Showcase’, which will support travel advisors and travellers to plan and book.

The program of informative showcase presentations will take place in major cities from 29 Aug.

Hosted by the Scenic sales team, these sessions will be showcased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra, and Perth.

The forum will see attendees gain insights from Scenic’s expert team, with interactive Q&As; learn more about the benefits of small ship cruising and handcrafted land journeys, along with how the cruise line

safeguards their passengers’ well-being; discover more about the company’s newest itineraries and exciting experiences; and access “Super Earlybird” and “Earlybird” special bonus offers.

There is a choice of five sessions each day, including “Discover Mekong River Cruising”, “Learn more about Scenic Europe River Cruising along the Rhine, Main, & Danube rivers”, “Canada & Alaska Land Journeys”, “Scenic France River Cruising”, and “*Scenic Eclipse* Ocean Cruising: Highlights of the 2023-2024 voyages”.

For more information, such as dates and times, visit [scenic.com.au/events/showcase](https://www.scenic.com.au/events/showcase).

## Deals of the week

**VIKING’S** deal of the week is the ‘France’s Finest’ river cruise, sailing for 15 days from Paris to Avignon or vice versa.

The voyage is now on sale, priced from \$4,695 per person twin share.

The itinerary takes travellers from Normandy’s World War II beaches and the sophistication of Paris, to the history of Avignon, Lyon’s culinary heritage, and the wines of Beaujolais.

For ocean cruisers, the ‘Ancient Mediterranean Treasures’ itinerary is also on sale, sailing for eight days from Istanbul to Athens or vice versa.

Priced from \$3,995 per person twin share in a Veranda Stateroom, the deal includes savings of up to \$3,400 per couple.

Cruisers will spend two days in Istanbul, with its Byzantine treasures and intriguing blend of Eastern and Western influences.

They will then travel to the ruins of Troy, before exploring historic sites in Ephesus, marvelling at the gorgeous islands of Rhodes and Crete, and discovering the architectural gems of ancient Athens - phone 138 747.

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